  
The Bloody Friday Bombing occurred on July 21st 1972. Between 2:15 and 3:20 in the afternoon, a total of 22 bombs exploded in various towns of Belfast, Northern Ireland. The 65 minute attack with detonated car bombs, mines and other devices, killed around 9 people, including civilians and soldiers, and injured 130, including 77 women and children. Six people were killed by a car bomb at Oxford Street bus station and 3 died after an explosion at a shopping centre on the Cavehill Road. The death toll is uncertain as some of the bodies were badly dismembered.  
  
The Bloody Friday attack was caused by the Provisional IRA, a prominent paramilitary group that opposed British rule Northern Ireland. Their intention of the bombings was to intensify their campaigns after British Prime Minister Edward Heath decided to impose “direct rule” from London in 24th March 1972. Also, on July 7th, the IRA chief of staff, Sean MacStiofain, demanded the British withdraw from Ireland within three years, but the British did not agree, so the IRA used violence. Around 150 IRA members were responsible for the bombings, but only 3 were convicted and 1 served a gaol term.  
  
The Provisional IRA refused to accept responsibility for the atrocity and blamed the security forces for the carnage. Sean MacStiofain, claimed that they had sent adequate warnings of the attacks - 30 minutes to an hour before the explosion - and accused security forces of deliberately ignoring some of them.   
  
The Bloody Friday bombings were one of the most violent attacks in 1972. Many civilians were killed. The bombings that intended to attack the British only provoked them. As a result, the British army retaliated by launching “Operation Motorman” to the Provisional IRA after ten days of the attack. The Provisional IRA’s use of violence in the attack was not effective in achieving their goal.  
  
**Websites:**  
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/bloody-friday-remembered-carnage-and-heartbreak-16187485.html>   
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/bloody_friday_belfast>   
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/northern_ireland/understanding/events/bloody_friday.stm>   
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<http://www.cain.ulst.ac.uk/events/bfriday/nio/nio72.htm>